

# THE KAPPA ALPHA THETA.

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## Vassaria.

Under existing circumstances the blessing of Kappa Alpha Theta is withheld from Women's Colleges, and Kappa Alpha Theta in turn is perhaps not so familiar with the manners and customs of these institutions as she might be if chapters were established in them. It may therefore be not uninteresting to readers of the JOURNAL to find in its pages a little sketch of Vassar College ; not of its history and curriculum ; these are set forth in the catalogue ; but of its traditions and general atmosphere.

Vassar is, of course, like any other college, a world in itself, made up of all sorts and conditions of men. Women is the right word but that spoils the quotation. In the eyes of the conventional world, to be sure, Vassar is, at worst, but a harmless amusement. One does not suffer from general social condemnation, as is at least possible in the eastern co-educational colleges. But within the student body society is organized upon the lines laid down for it by human nature. There is the quiet, unobtrusive girl, whose shabby clothes, bare room, and abstinence proclaim her poverty. She cannot escape suffering. There is the usual proportion of those who meet out their friendly offices in accordance with the wealth of the recipient. Even the Faculty may fall short of recognition. There is also the maid of high degree and irreproachable breeding who finds no one too lowly for her gracious courtesy. And there is the young woman whose amusements are of a doubtful character. In short, a girl

who goes to Vassar finds out what sorts of people there are in the world.

The College assumes responsibility for the relations of the students with the outside world. But the restrictions placed upon them cannot be burdensome. No one needs to have inclination or leisure to go into town after dark. Drives and all sorts of evening parties are chaperoned by officers of the College, but officers of the College are not half bad. This chaperoning is not always strictly conventional, for the instructors are allowed to chaperon. But when there are men along professors and professor's wives are the duennas.

The students' relations to one another are in the hands of the Students' Association. All the girls sign the constitution of this Association, pledging themselves to go to bed at ten o'clock and to attend chapel regularly. Two or three cuts a month are allowed. The students themselves attend to the fulfillment of these pledges, for which arrangement the faculty are one and all devoutly thankful.

Besides the Students' Association there are many organizations, the Christian Association, the Dramatic Society with all its chapters, the Debating Society, the Athletic Association, a chapter of the College Settlements' Association, a Glee Club, Mandolin and Guitar Club, and a Choral Society. The classes, too, are organized with regular officers. All these bodies are governed and managed by the girls themselves, and herein lies the great advantage of a woman's college. If a girl has within herself incipient executive powers, they are sure to be developed in the course of four years. The management of such societies is no light task, and brings its own reward. The ability to preside well at a class meeting is not given to every woman, and is improved by use. The graceful and self possessed way in which presidents of Associations introduce distinguished men to audiences of Vassar and its friends fills the beholder with awe and admiration. The students write their own magazine and early become accustomed to seeing themselves in print. Having taken the first plunge which counts, in the pages of



the college monthly, they are adventurously inclined when they leave College, and aspire to the columns of Harper's and the Century.

Much cleverness and ingenuity is shown in these intellectual directions. But fortunately not all the cleverness and ingenuity is wasted upon work. Vassar, being far from anything very lively in the way of amusement, is forced to amuse herself, and does it with distinguished success.

The year starts off with a Christian Association reception, to which the Freshmen are invited and escorted by upper-classmen. On Hallowe'en the Seniors entertain the Sophomores and the Juniors the Freshmen, usually in fancy dress. No scene can be more brilliant. The make-ups vary from the one hastily knocked together between dinner and chapel, to the costume so complete and successful that nobody recognizes the wearer. In November comes the annual reception of the Freshmen by the Sophomores, at which the class presidents make little speeches of welcome and of response, and where one goes through a program of dances, varied occasionally by a German. The girls wear their very best clothes and their very best company manners just as though it were a regular party. They are rather remarkable for this.

At the beginning of December comes the anniversary of the Dramatic Society, which is a regular party, and a very successful one, as a rule. Founder's Day, celebrated in April, is again a regular party, regular all this time meaning that men are invited. In May the Juniors give the Seniors a farewell entertainment, a ride on the river, a lawn fete, or whatever comes into their heads.

The Hall plays, too, are fixed feasts, and are certainly the most delightful diversions ever contrived by mortal woman. The novice may at first be somewhat distressed by the incongruity between the masculine costumes and unmistakably feminine voices, but it is forgotten utterly after the first few experiences. The fact that one knows and is interested in the girls who are taking part in a play has its charm. But

it is to the fact that the girls act delightfully well that most of the charm is to be ascribed. They are wise enough to choose plays to which they are equal, and are kind enough to have these mostly of a cheerful nature, so that to many of the inmates of Vassar College the hall plays are the pleasantest happenings of the year.

Although these serious entertainments are thoroughly well managed, it is the impromptu performances which bring out the native genius of Vassar girls in its highest light; as, for instance, when a bevy of girls gets up a solemn mock wedding, wherein the bride's father giveth riches unto title, and at which Queen Victoria and Lord Dunraven haughtily condescend to be present.

The campaign furnished much food for celebration. There were banquets, and receptions, and torchlight processions, at which appeared the various clubs of workingmen, heavy swells, and new women. The Republican and Democratic rallies were stirring meetings, addressed by distinguished men of the past and present, and attended impartially by the Shade of Washington. The Sophomores are required to take a course in General History one year, when this course was almost run, the class gave a fancy dress ball in symbol of rejoicing. One girl appeared as the Christian Church, four white pasteboard walls around her, and a steeple on her head.

Not half has been told of the work and the play, which outside of the college courses, does so much toward developing originality. There are chapter plays, colonial balls, and all the gay and festive circumstances of Commencement. The fun and happiness attendant upon gatherings of the class, no pen can ever describe. Those delightful hours, when fourteen in a room, most of them on one couch, talk things over, are celebrated at Vassar as everywhere else. Every college girl can imagine them for herself, and mistaken is she who does not know them to constitute at least half of her college education.

WINIFRED BALL.



## Convention Hints.

It seems scarcely possible that Kappa Alpha Theta's twelfth biennial convention is almost at hand. But a request from our editor for some convention hints or suggestions, and a backward glance at my calendar reminds me that this is the case. It is an incredibly short time since we were together in Syracuse, in convention assembled; and as the recollection of that convention comes to me, with all that pertained to it—its delegates, its officers, the thoughtful and considerate hospitality of Chi chapter, the interest and enthusiasm of its busy sessions, the motions and "emotions" that were before the house, the receptions, the teas, and the banquet—when I recall all this with its host of pleasant associations, it seems almost a piece of presumption, if not impertinence to offer suggestions or hints for the next convention. But on the other hand, when I recall the work of planning and arranging for a convention, with all its detail, the thousand and one things, little and great, that must be thought of and provided for; when I remember the weight of responsibility that rests upon the few, whose duty it is to attend to all this, it seems, perhaps, pardonable for me to offer what I have gained from my experience in the past.

Our fraternity has never formally agreed upon a certain time and place for holding our conventions, as a few of the other societies have done. It has been our policy to leave the question of time and place to the Grand Council, to be settled each time as seems best in their judgment, but with this single proviso—that it be a biennial meeting. This has involved the Grand Council in no small amount of trouble. The question has been left entirely to them. There is room for great difference of opinion; and the amount of correspondence necessary to reach a final agreement cannot easily be understood by one, who has not been behind the scenes with an opportunity to observe and participate in the shifting and adjusting necessary to reach the end in view,

The leading question in dispute has been as a rule *the*

*time* of the convention. Upon this most of the other questions hinge ; or at least this question of time being settled, other questions settle themselves. Shall the convention be held during the summer or during the college year ? There is much to be said on either side. A successful convention must, in the nature of things, be a great help and incentive to any entertaining chapter ; and usually there are several chapters eager for the honor and pleasure of entertaining a national convention. It is an event in the history of a chapter, and often marks its turning point. It gives fresh impetus and enthusiasm to chapter life ; and arouses a chapter, as nothing else can, to a desire to work for a larger advantage and gain than mere chapter interests. Moreover, to the delegates themselves there is an advantage in getting away from their own college environment into one that is different, be it better or worse. And added to this, there is the consideration that fraternities are a part of college life. They belong to the college atmosphere ; they live in it and thrive in it, and a fraternity convention taken away from a college or university center finds itself in an unnatural if not a hostile atmosphere. This, of course, to college men is of no importance ; they are, for the time being, independent of any social conditions. To the college girl it is different. She is never independent of social conditions ; at least not in practice, however much she may be in theory. So it seems to me, all other things being equal, that a convention will be most successful and helpful if held with some chapter of the fraternity in its own college or university home.

But unfortunately other things are not equal, and this question of time asserts itself. If the convention be held with one of the chapters, it must almost of necessity be held during the college year ; and a convention during term time means a great loss of time to all who attend it, as well as to the entertaining chapter. To our California delegates the last convention meant a loss of three weeks, and it is a question whether any one can afford to lose



so much time from college work. At the same time, the advantages to *the general fraternity* of a convention held during term time and with an entertaining chapter so greatly outnumber and outweigh those of a summer convention, held elsewhere, that it is a question whether we are not justified in asking this sacrifice of time of our delegates.

There is, however, one great advantage in a summer convention, held outside of a college town. It affords a freedom from the numerous social obligations that usually crowd the convention week. However delightful these entertainments may be in and of themselves, and however grateful we may be for the hospitality shown us, those of us who have known the wear and tear of conventions realize that they are a burden we would gladly be relieved of. It is not a lack of appreciation on our part of the courtesy of our friends; but our time is limited, our sessions crowded with business, and most of us find our strength greatly overtaxed before the week ends. With a summer convention, this difficulty may easily be avoided, and its social features limited to the convention banquet.

This question of time is not an easy one for the Grand Council to settle. There is much to be considered,—the welfare of the individual chapters and delegates, the interests of the entertaining chapter, and the convenience of the Grand Council members themselves, all of which makes the question a complicated one and leads to an almost endless amount of correspondence for our officers. In view of all this, it seems to me it would be wiser and better to settle the question by a convention vote. If we could come to a formal agreement and establish a general policy, deciding whether we should meet henceforth during vacation or during term time, other questions pertaining to conventions would settle themselves, and the work of the Grand Council would be greatly lightened.

There is not much to be suggested to an entertaining chapter. The nature and amount of work to be done by them is obvious to every one. But a word of warning may

not be amiss. However great may be your desire to entertain a national convention, however much enthusiasm and interest you may have in it, and however carefully you may plan and arrange for its success, there will be some points at which, after the convention is over, and you look back upon it coldly and critically in the light of subsequent events, you will see you have made mistakes. This must necessarily be so, for the reason that the entertainment of a national convention is a new experience to any chapter, and only a veteran in the service of the fraternity can really know the ways and byways of convention.

But in order that these inevitable mistakes be reduced to a minimum, let me advise you to begin your preparations early. Leave nothing to the last that can be attended to in advance; and by *advance* I do not mean the week or two weeks beforehand, but the month or months previous to the convention. Appoint your committees early and notify the Grand Council of the chairmen of these committees, as soon as appointed, for the Grand Council can help you and you can help them. If possible, arrange to lay aside the affairs and concerns of your own chapter life during the week of the convention. Make the convention primarily your business; and attend its sessions as much of the time as your college work will allow. Do not arrange to entertain a convention during your rushing season, or at any time when you are completely occupied with your own chapter life. For in every convention it falls to the entertaining chapter to play an unselfish part, to put away for the time being individual affairs, and meet whatever demands may be made by the rest of the fraternity. And these demands will be numerous. You will be expected to be in all places at all times, to be up and doing every hour of the day and night. You will have in your care at least fifty strangers, Kappa Alpha Thetas though they may be, to whom you are obligated each one of you to fill the part of an individual hostess. It must be remembered that your chapter is for the time in a conspicuous position.



You are at once under the scrutiny of your own general fraternity and the cynosure of your own college world.

It may easily happen that the entertaining chapter through inexperience may overlook some of the practical details most necessary for a smoothly running convention. There is the reception committee, whose duty it is to watch the trains and meet the delegates. In each of the three conventions I have attended, this committee has been too small. It is not an easy task to meet the fifty delegates, most of them coming on different trains, and to escort them to their places of entertainment. The committee should therefore be large, with an executive chairman, and the work well divided among its members.

Another important committee, and one I have known to be overlooked, is the House Committee, whose duty it is to provide for the comfort and convenience of the convention during sessions, to arrange the seats and assign them permanently to the delegates and officers, to provide for the needs of the secretary, and most important of all, to put the convention room in order at the close of each session. An information bureau stationed at the convention headquarters would add greatly to the convenience of the delegates and officers, and could easily be arranged for by the entertaining chapter. Another thing that has sometimes been overlooked in our convention is a committee to go with the delegates to any entertainments that may be given for the convention by the other fraternities of the institution. It is not easy for the delegates to go alone ; and is moreover extremely awkward for the fraternity receiving the convention.

In conclusion I would say to you, as an entertaining chapter, that you have before you a laborious undertaking, though it will prove to be one of the pleasantest experiences of your college life. You will thoroughly enjoy your convention. It will leave with you many happy associations. Your chapter will reap the fruits of your labor, and will moreover be the subject of deeper interest on the part of those in attendance upon the convention.

To the delegate of the convention I would suggest in general, that she be thoroughly familiar with the business to be transacted. It is her duty to have received her instructions on all points concerning her chapter and to serve as its mouthpiece. Where she has received no instructions, she is free to think and act for herself, keeping in mind the welfare of the general fraternity. Her ideas and motive should be the greatest good to the greatest number.

But in particular I should like to urge upon the delegate three things: first, that she be not afraid of the sound of her own voice; second, that she feel the importance of being prompt in her attendance upon convention sessions; and third, that she be very explicit in notifying the entertaining chapter of her arrival.

The delegate should not hesitate to talk or to express her opinions. She should not wait for some one else to speak for her and put the motion she desires to have carried before the house. The convention is the place for a free and frank interchange of opinion, and each member of it should feel an obligation to do her part. The delegates are all on an equality, with the same privileges and same responsibility; and in just so far as each one feels her responsibility and makes use of her privileges will the convention be a success.

It is of great importance that the convention sessions begin on time. Nothing retards the progress of a convention more than a delay in getting a quorum together. As a rule the program is so arranged that a certain amount of business must be transacted at each session; and if one session falls behind, it means a delay to the rest of the convention, with probably an extra session at the end. . . . It was a matter of surprise to us at the last convention that many of the delegates failed to give Chi chapter an intelligent notification of their arrival. It is not enough to give merely the time; both your route and the time at which your train is due should be stated.

The position of a delegate is on the whole a pleasant one. It may, of course, have occasionally a disagreeable side;



but none of us, whose good fortune it has been to attend our conventions ever regret it. It is a unique experience ; and one for which you will find no parallel outside of your college and fraternity life. You will both enjoy it at the time, and look back upon it always with pleasure ; and to you who are to participate in our next convention I offer my heartiest congratulations, with the sincere hope that you may make it the most successful one Kappa Alpha Theta has ever known.

MARGARET ELLEN SMITH.

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### **Have We the Courage of Our Convictions?**

A question which often confronts a fraternity as the end of the rushing season draws near, is that of the advisability of extending an invitation to some girl whom the fraternity would like to number among its members, but who is almost certain to join some other fraternity which has also been rushing her. A not unnatural feeling at such a time is that, where a girl seems a foregone conclusion to a rival fraternity, it is foolish to risk almost certain and immediate refusal and so "lose a girl." For this reason alone, a girl who would otherwise be asked to join the fraternity does not receive the expected invitation, and the fraternity congratulates itself upon having avoided the discredit of "a refusal," quite unconscious of the fact that if the girl would have made a desirable member she is equally a loss to the fraternity whether she refused its invitation, or whether she was not given a chance so to do.

Against such a practice we would most emphatically protest. Such a course is unfair both to the fraternity and to the new girl. It must in the end react disastrously upon the offending chapter, and lower the high standing which might otherwise be obtained, had the more honorable course of extending an invitation, regardless of the probable answer, been pursued. To have an invitation refused has never

yet hurt a fraternity and probably never will. To fail to ask a girl who has been given every reason to expect an invitation to join the fraternity, when the only reason for such failure is the fear of receiving a refusal, generally indicates but two things, a sense of weakness, as compared with other chapters, and a lack of that fine sense of honor which would impel a fraternity or an individual to fulfill even tacit promises.

It is sometimes claimed that a girl who is honorable in the relations with the fraternities which are rushing her will before asking-day make up her mind firmly with respect to which fraternity she wishes to join and then plainly show any other fraternities which are in the field that her choice is made and that it will be quite useless for them to extend an invitation to her. To a certain extent we agree with this view, but we do not think that even this discouragement from the girl rushed should cause her to be dropped by the probably unsuccessful fraternities. Moreover, it is not often that a girl can before asking-day be perfectly sure of the fraternity which she prefers to join—sure enough at least to warrant her in discouraging all advances from other fraternities. Where the regular pan-Hellenic asking-day comes later in the fall or early in the winter term this may occasionally be true. Otherwise it is hardly possible. Where two fraternities of very nearly equal reputation are rushing a girl, decision is difficult and often depends upon slight causes which sometimes do not develop till the girl is actually in receipt of invitations from the two fraternities, and begins to know the different members in those relations of greater freedom which naturally arise when the fraternity girls and the new girls have a chance to talk over frankly the all absorbing topic. For the sake of the new girl then, we would urge that, though she has apparently made her decision, she still be given on asking-day a chance to be sure that this decision is final for her and if it is not, to change it.

Even more for the sake of the fraternity, however, we would frown upon the practice of dropping a girl who seems



inclined to join another fraternity. What if she does refuse your invitation and join the other fraternity? If she has a due sense of honor she will appreciate the compliment paid her by the fraternity which she refused and neither she nor the fraternity she joined will ever boast unkindly of that refusal. To the fraternity it is no disgrace to have an invitation refused. A desirable girl who joins another fraternity is just as much a loss to the fraternity she does not join, whether it asked her or whether it dropped her. Moreover if she would be a desirable acquisition to a fraternity it speaks well for the good taste of that fraternity when it shows its appreciation of her desirability by asking her to join even though a refusal is the only answer anticipated.

There is one other consideration which might be noted here and that is the effect which the practice of "dropping" girls has upon a fraternity's reputation with the non-fraternity element, and with other fraternities represented in the college. Everyone has at some time heard it said, contemptuously "Oh, such and such a fraternity never asks a girl unless it is perfectly sure of getting her." While outside criticism should not be too powerful in shaping the policy of a fraternity, the wish to stand well with every element is a strong and natural desire, and in no way can it be better realized than by pursuing a course in regard to method of rushing which these outside elements recognize as the most honorable and straightforward.

ISADORE GILBERT MUDGE.

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### If the Coat Fits, Put it On.

If anyone of you in a moment of rashness or of wisdom has ever yielded to the importunities of your best friend to tell her if there be any trick of speech or deed, trifling or serious which jars upon you and disturbs the charm of her otherwise always adorable self you will appreciate my present position and will be therefore merciful. However,

if you have never attempted this always uncomfortable and ofttime unprofitable experiment of letting your dearest see herself as others, yourself in particular behold her, I can only rely upon your innate kindliness and pursue my unhappy way.

Simply stated, the case is this. In our communications to the JOURNAL, we seem to be growing strangely careless in the use of standard English and to be substituting therefore marvellously unholy slang. Take for example the word *frat*. Does it seem particularly attractive written, or endowed with a greater charm when spoken? "But," you murmur, "*frat* is so *nice* and *short*!" So I am led to believe are many words commonly employed for the misguided purpose of relieving the mind, said operation known to dictionaries as swearing.

"But we always put a period after it, thus: *frat.*" you still further plead, which you know full well is a breach of good form at least, if you will only recall some of your early English instruction regarding abbreviations not yet recognized by the best authorities. "But if we write it so "*frat.*" isn't it all correct?" Recall if you please what your professor has said about manuscripts sprinkled with words enclosed with quotation marks.

Do you yourself think that "*frat*" is a very pretty word? Do not the quotation marks seem to show that you realized that there was another word you might have used but you preferred your decorated "*frat.*"?

Perhaps "*spike*" might be classed next as far as being objectionable is concerned although *bid* and *swing* press closely for second place. "But *spike* is such a *strong* word bears with it so much force." That I grant if by force is meant the shock one receives on hearing it for the first time. But if you mean force in the accepted theoretical sense then I fear the word does not serve its purpose, for I never yet have met a person who at first grasped the meaning of *spike* or one who was grateful for having its meaning explained.



Why not use English, is bluntly asked and why not many will echo.

Are you familiar with the song which ends with this refrain :

“ We’re not the only ones  
O dear no,  
We’re not the only ones !”

If you are familiar with it, throw aside the JOURNAL, thinking all manner of dire thoughts, sing and be consoled. If it is not in your repertoire then hum the words to some familiar strain and be consoled also, for other fraternity periodicals use and will continue to use fraternity slang and we are no better or no worse than they—so far.

You are not so youthful I know as to hope to reform the universe or to fancy that it is expected you will, and you cannot hope to change the ideas of the little part of the universe embraced by fraternity life—but you can do something for your own fraternity and that something is firstly to write for the JOURNAL, secondly to carefully review your manuscript removing the quotation marks about *bid* and *swing* and all the others, changing them into recognizable English, erasing the period after frat and giving it room to expand into its normal dignity, thereby earning the lasting gratitude of the casual reader who heretofore has found himself in utter darkness regarding the meaning of some sentences, since dictionaries have not hoped to keep pace with the marvellous growth, obnoxious as well, of fraternity slang.

If I seem to have been dictatorial out of the depths of your charity forgive but do not forget. The consolation to be derived is that we are all sinners together and I pray you let it be our cure.

LILLIAN CONSTANCE SWIFT.

## ALUMNÆ DEPARTMENT.

### Delta Alumnæ.

"Old sisters rejuvenated," our worthy president calls us. Some of us do not feel very old but the rejuvenation has certainly been accomplished, judging from the loyalty to dear old Theta shown in our meetings.

Early last spring a few enthusiastic alumnæ studied the catalogue carefully and found that about thirty Thetas were living in and near Chicago. Many letters were written and several preliminary meetings were held during the spring so that when we returned from our summer's outings twenty of us were ready and waiting for our charter which bears the date Oct. 5, 1896.

Later in October we were delightfully entertained by our president, Jane Eyre Smoot, (Eta,) at her home, in Highland Park, a little north of the city. Mrs. Smoot is always a charming hostess, but we felt that she was at her best that day. Great boughs of yellow autumn leaves all over the house suggested our fraternity colors and in the dining room too the black and gold were used for decorations. The dainty buffet luncheon prepared us for the business meeting that followed.

Those of you who have worked with alumnæ know that they are busier—though not less loyal—than college girls. Many of us have the cares of our own homes and most of the others are engaged in some definite work. It has been decided wisest for us to hold our regular meetings somewhere in the city where we can take luncheon together, and then have our fraternity meeting afterwards. We are very widely scattered and a journey of twenty miles to one of the homes can not always be undertaken.

Delta sends the seasons' greetings to all.



“ Old Subjunctives.”

An old man sat on the bench against the grey stone wall of the chapel. The campus sloped away before him, green except for some cross cuts worn by the feet of students late to prayers. Inside the chapel the organ was playing softly ; through the tops of the fir trees which hid the campus from the road the old man could get glimpses of the mountains.

It was a dear old seat—would the boys remember it as the seat where Old Subjunctives liked to sit? “ Old Subjunctives”—to think he had never found out till the other day that the boys called him that ! “ I do not believe,” he said to himself, “ I do *not* believe that I ever laid too much stress upon the subjunctive mood. Indeed, it would be difficult, very difficult to overestimate its importance.”

The organ had stopped playing ; the voice of the President leading the service came out through the chapel window. “ I wonder if they are missing me in there,” thought Old Subjunctives. “ The President—he is a well-meaning man, but I fear he is lacking in foresight. And I was so cordial to him ; I have always felt the friendliest interest in his work. All the while, it seems he was planning this. I wonder how I offended him. He said the Trustees felt that the labors of my position were too much for one of my years. But I am not old.” He straightened himself up and looked at his withered hand. “ I have always kept up with the times—with what is good in these new methods. There is not much that is good, I fear. I am glad—I am glad that Sarah did not live to see me turned out.”

The white head bowed itself again. A step on the asphalt walk roused Old Subjunctives from a bitter reverie. A young man, a stranger, came slowly up the path, looking about him with eager interest. “ I beg your pardon,” he said, “ can you tell me where I can find the President at this hour ?

“ He is at present conducting chapel services in this build-

ing," the old man answered, looking at the new-comer from under his deep brows.

"Oh! Then he will be out before long, I suppose. May I sit down here with you and wait? The fact is, I reached here sooner than he expected me. How beautiful everything is here! I can't tell you how beautiful everything seems to me. I presume that you are one of the professors?"

"Yes," said Old Subjunctives, "I am one of the professors."

"We shall be colleagues, then. Allow me to introduce myself as the newly appointed Professor of Latin."

"I am very glad to meet you, sir," said the old man, with gentle courtesy.

"The trustees confirmed my appointment day before yesterday, and the President telegraphed me to come on at once and look over the ground. I feel that this position is a great opportunity for so young a man as I."

"I believe you will find it so," said Old Subjunctives. The young man looked at the kind, thoughtful face of his companion; something about its expression made him feel like confiding all that was in his heart.

"I can't tell you," he said, "what getting this position means to me. I've had rather a hard time of it in my life; things have always gone against me, but now—I expect to be married this summer. This place came to me when I was feeling pretty blue—and—why it was like the gate of heaven. It seems as if all things were possible to me now."

The organ sounded again; the students were singing the hymn. The pair outside listened in silence.

"Green pastures are before me  
Which yet I have not seen;  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me  
Where darkest clouds have been.  
My hope I cannot measure;  
My path to life is free—"

"It seems," said the young man, smiling, "as if these words were meant for me."



Old Subjunctives lifted his eyes to the far mountains. He saw the face of his dead wife, and the future looked clear in the light of the eternal love that shone from it. "I know" he whispered, "that they are meant for me."

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### A Romance of Extension.

The University Extension lecturer gathered up his notes as the audience filed out of the High School Assembly Room, and gave a discouraged glance at the pile of papers which his students had left on the table below the platform. It was of course gratifying that there should be so many, but he would have to sit up very late if he called on Miss Stafford in the evening. He was a young man, a tutor from a neighboring college; and he had gone into extension work with enough enthusiasm to have enforced sweetness and light upon the most refractory and unprogressive community. In spite of discouragements, he told himself that his zeal, theoretically, was unabated. Practically—well, he may have come to take more interest in the intellectual condition of Chelsea Falls than the needs of other towns justified since he had made the acquaintance of Miss Eleanor Stafford. But the merest Philistine would have pardoned that, for Miss Stafford was exceedingly pretty. She had bronze hair, and large grey eyes; a very white skin, and an erect figure which looked well in walking-gown. None of these things, however, moved the apostle of University Extension. It was her mind that he admired. He was not very well acquainted with the feminine mind in general, having passed his undergraduate years in the social isolation of a student who works his way, and his graduate course in single-hearted devotion to his thesis. It was the first time in his experience that he had known a charming woman who took a personal interest in his work. No wonder that when she listened sympathetically to the latest events in his intellectual life, he thought her the incarnation of wisdom

as well as of beauty. No wonder that he was as entirely in love as only a man with the simple heart of a boy can be.

She was standing near the door talking to a friend. He made haste down the aisle to walk home with her. She gave him her hand with her own bright frankness ; she said some simple thing about his lecture that made him beam with delight ; she was walking down the village street with him, and it was at least half a mile to her father's house. Verily, this was the best of all possible worlds !

As usual she made him talk about himself. To tell her about his classes in college, his small successes, his ambition, made it all seem infinitely worth while to him. And yet some one had said of her that she was a mere "society girl," with no object in life but to collect as many victims as she could. How wickedly cruel these superficial judgments were ! He looked down at the bright face with a tender reverence. The charm of early spring was all about them ; there were crocuses in the gardens they passed, and tufts of grass in sunny places. The two smiled at each other, ill-matched couple that they were, in the sudden unaccountable way that children have ; and walked more slowly.

Suddenly Miss Stafford said, to relieve a certain tenseness in the atmosphere, "How are the papers?"

"Very fair. I do get some curious specimens now and then, though."

"Do the women or the men do best?"

"The women, in general. All but one. My star performer, I call her ; if you could only see what a mess she makes of my poor lectures !"

"Worse than all the others ? Poor woman !"

"Really, she has the most undisciplined mind I have ever encountered. Now and then she says a good thing, but she is absolutely incapable of logical thought. It interests me to see such mental chaos, though it fills me with despair.

"What is her name?"

"Oh, really—I couldn't tell you, you know !"



"Please," insisted Miss Stafford, "I must know her name."

"Well—I am sure I can trust you. She signs her papers 'Emma Strong.'"

They walked on for a few moments in silence. Miss Stafford's gate was close by. "Do you know her?" he asked idly.

"Goodbye" said Miss Stafford. He felt a sharp throb of pain as he looked at her face; it was flushed crimson, and her eyes were filled with tears.

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"John," said the new professor of history's wife, some five years later, "do you know when I first found out that I cared for you?"

"When?" said the professor of history, with a self-satisfied smile.

"It was when you said those awful things about my poor paper, that day we walked home together.

"What!" shouted the professor of history, in tones of the deepest consternation.

"Just then, you see—the girls had made fun of you, and they had dared me to send in papers to you every week. I liked you, but I was such a conceited thing. I was so far above you in everything our stupid narrow-minded little world thought worth while. And when you said what you did about those papers—nobody had ever criticised me like that before,—I suddenly saw what I really was, and how infinitely inferior to you. Of *course* I loved you then! I'm so glad I sent in those dreadful papers!"

"They were beautiful papers!" said the professor of history.

## UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT.

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"

"To my Fraternity, sir," she said.

"And *why* are you going, my pretty maid?"

"I have great expectations, sir," she said.

Thus singeth she who is newly initiated into the mysteries of Fraternity life!

What, then, are those expectations and hopes,—what is the Fraternity to mean to her during her college career and throughout her whole life?

First of all, she looks forward to her Fraternity not as an organization which exists solely as a united body of "kindred spirits," but as a link between personalities that are all the more individual and original because of the bond of union between them. It is also her hope that her Fraternity shall be to her a means, and not an end—a means by which she may attain more easily to a closer approach to her ideal of all that which is most scholarly, womanly and life-producing;—not "the only thing" in her

Great Expectations. college life. To say that would seem to her to limit the influence of her Fraternity to the four years spent within college walls, rather than to accord to it a far more enduring and steadily widening range of possibilities.

It might be thought almost needless to state that she looks for loyalty as an ingredient of Fraternity life. And yet there is perhaps no problem more difficult of solution than that of distinguishing between unprejudiced allegiance and a sentiment of inherent superiority. Loyalty is so easily spelled out into partisanship—and then, how the ideals are shattered and cast down!

Most of all, perhaps, she desires to obtain from the mystic



circle an avenue to friendship,—friendship which shall begin to be realized by one and another of her sisters in as many and as varied ways.

She does not expect to play the rôle of a Columbus and discover a *perfect* land. Nor does she, at the same time, wish that her Fraternity's opinion of itself may be that the ideal set, at its beginning, has been fully realized. Far from it! She would discover it to be indeed a growing institution—one whose impulses are continually pressing forward to larger fulfillment day by day, and year by year.

Is it then only the "serious side of things" for which she is seeking?

The revered senior and alumnae surely are aware that this is not the case, in spite of her tremendous chrysalis of dignity! Fun, she is convinced, is to be found in abundance in Fraternity life; dramatic possibilities rivalled only by the youthful attempts of Mrs. Siddons or Mary Anderson; wit and humor of as rare and delectable a character as could be desired. So shall her fraternity banish that "loathed melancholy" which is frequently caused by an undue amount of intellectual nectar!

Does she ask too much? If so she does it unintentionally, while down in her innermost consciousness she is thinking that Kappa Alpha Theta is far on the highway to the golden goal.

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I suppose one might say of us, that as the "old K. A. T's. meow the kittens will learn," just as in the old maxim about the cock. The great thing a girl has to guard against upon entering into a fraternity is not to let it swallow up her individuality, and to continue having a mind of her own; we new girls, I think, all Individuality in expected and promised ourselves beforehand, the Fraternity. that we would not let it be so. But where new girls are Freshmen, as they generally are, there is great danger of their losing sight of the rest of the college world, after

they once begin to realize the happy congeniality of their own circle, and while there is nothing we new ones want more than love and sympathy and confidence from our older sisters, still, teach us, we pray, not to forget our other surroundings and the great possibilities of maintaining and of making strong, lovely friendships among others. Show us by your examples that it is possible and necessary to make our influence known and loved among all, show us that college spirit and love for Alma Mater, to which we are above all beholden, come first and foremost. Then, for we are apt pupils, will you see that instead of giving you less of ourselves, we give you more and you will be truly proud to have us represent our beloved Kappa Alpha Theta.

IOTA.

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With most chapters the rushing season is now over and the pledged members are initiates of the Fraternity. What does it mean to be a initiate of Kappa Alpha Theta, or what does the Fraternity expect the initiate to be and do?

The Fraternity expects its new members to take themselves and it seriously. Fraternity life is something more than pleasant chapter meetings or social gathering of various sorts. It is something which in the course of a girl's college experience is going to bring her the warmest, strongest friendships and the most helpful companion-

What the Fraternity Expects. ships which she has yet known. To one who sees merely from the outside, Fraternity life may seem to mean nothing but "rushing" and a constant struggle to be first. This is the least of what it can and does mean. If the word Fraternity is to mean all to a girl which it is capable of meaning, she must realize this fact from the beginning, and give to her Fraternity relations the time and attention which she would give to other important elements of her college life. The excitement and pleasant attractions of the rushing season may have made a girl feel that in joining she was somehow conferring a favor



upon the Fraternity for which that institution must be properly grateful. If such is the case let her do a little serious thinking upon the subject and realize that however valuable an acquisition she may be to her chapter, the favor has come from the other side. One girl may contribute much to the welfare and prosperity of her chapter, but she must from the nature of the case always receive more from the chapter as a whole than she as individual can give. The Fraternity expects the new member to realize this and to be willing and glad to promote by every means in her power the prosperity of the chapter.

The Fraternity expects from the new girl loyalty and a careful keeping of the Fraternity secrets. At the same time it does not desire an offensive display of secrecy or any assumption of superiority over others on the ground of Fraternity membership. Neither is a new member's exclusive devotion desired. It will be better both for new initiate and for the Fraternity as a whole if she makes and keeps friends outside of her fraternity and does not narrow herself by refusing to know anyone outside the limits of her own chapter. For the reputation of the Fraternity which she has joined, a girl should take especial pains to show unfailing courtesy and kindness to all outsiders. Clannishness of any sort, gatherings of Fraternity girls in halls or corridors of the dormitories, needless and semi-public discussions of Fraternity affairs should all be branded as in bad taste.

The initiate is expected to take an active interest in the history of her chapter and Fraternity. The present reputation of her chapter has induced her to join. Let her find out the past history of her chapter and then study the Fraternity organization. Let her find out chapter and Fraternity policy on various questions of importance and then understand the reasons which caused such policy to be adopted.

These are the more general expectations of the Fraternity. More particular expectations are prompt and regular attendance at chapter meetings and an ever increasing knowledge of parliamentary order. The night which a chapter agrees to set aside for chapter meeting should al-

ways be kept free from any other engagements. The Fraternity expects that the new initiate will procure her own pin as soon as possible and then wear it constantly, though not in any place which seems too conspicuous to be in good taste.

I remember so well the first time that I was assigned any real work to do for the fraternity, after my initiation. Up to that time I confess I felt somewhat like a houseguest who is not permitted to assist her hostess in any way.

Don't I beg, treat the new girls as they so  
 Do our New Girls often are treated—like company. Give  
 Have Enough to them something to do ; make them feel as  
 Do ?  
 soon as the pin is put on that they must do  
 their part and take the place of a senior or  
 an older girl who long has borne the burden. Don't let  
 them feel that the chapter is being managed for them.

To a girl who is earnest and energetic, and that is what Freshmen should be, nothing can be more irksome than the feeling, that after initiation, her part is not provided for—her duties not assigned. Let us then as older girls see to it that for our Freshmen, the donning of a Theta pin shall signify an immediate assuming of responsibility in chapter work.

According to the philosophy of some people, whatsoever a woman does is *womanly*, because a woman does it. It depends on how you define "womanly" whether this be true or not. If by it you simply mean within the range of feminine physical possibility, "womanly" will

Is a Woman a serve you for a most expandable epithet,  
 Woman for a' varying in meaning with race, climate, training, etc., but, if by it you mean *womanish*,  
 That ? —where the deed is mellowed by the woman  
 doing it—you will find it impossible to apply your word to  
 everything "gentle" woman does.

It is the womanish womanliness that the average college girl graduate lacks,—and lacks dreadfully. She does not



know how to make a home ; her house is only a stopping-place, and her children (if she has any) are mere incidentals. She may possess the science of household management, but the art she has not. She prefers dust on her furniture to dust on her intellect. She does not dignify the small things of life which go to make it beautiful. Her husband and her children breathe an atmosphere little better than that tainted by the famous Mrs. Jellyby. There is in her presence, no beautiful restfulness, no calm repose.

The college girl while in college should aim to be symmetrical ; she will never be a true woman, a true wife, or a true mother until she has learnt that character and culture depend upon the " little things " of daily life as much as upon intellectual growth.

W. S. F. '98, (*Phi*).

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So interested and absorbed are we apt to become in fraternity interests and chapter life, that I wonder sometimes whether there is not a tendency toward narrowness rather than expansion.

Particularly must we struggle against this in our relations toward the independent girl.

Are there not in every college interesting, lovable girls who belong neither to our own nor rival fraternities? And how often they are ignored, slighted or treated patronizingly because we do not think, or are occupied with " our girls."

And is there reason to suppose that the feelings of such girls are less sensitive than Relations Toward our own or are any slower to detect a slight? the Independent. Certainly not.

We must then guard our lips and actions, that they may not be impressed with an idea (too prevalent among them) that fraternity is synonymous with selfishness, exclusiveness and condescension.

Rather make them rejoice to have known and been influenced by the breadth and character which the fraternity spirit induces.

The deplorable condition become now so universal has already received marked comment in other fraternity publications. There is little new thought which I can add, but the evil is so malignant and wide spread that we can only hope to eradicate it by constant mention.

Are our class elections and honors to be controlled and manipulated as national and state? Must

The Fraternity in their errors and dishonesty be dragged into College Politics. our colleges and universities? The breadth and purity of the true fraternity surely will not admit of such degrading misapplication, and we commend to your earnest consideration the early reformation of this growing evil.

The following sentences in our President's letter in the November Journal contain food for thought: "May I not suggest that each chapter adhere more closely to the exact usages of parliamentary law? This will serve to inform those of us who are ignorant, and refresh those who are rusty, and altogether, to improve both chapter meetings and national conventions. There is some wisdom in the saying, 'Often times it is not so much what you do as how you do it that stamps the deed.'"

Probably there are few of us who do not realize the appropriateness of this suggestion. In general, an organization which transacts business, whether primarily or incidentally, conducts its meetings and transacts its business in a business-like way. Why should a fraternity be almost the only exception to this rule? It is true that a fraternity is not organized primarily for the purpose of doing business, but it is nevertheless true that since we have a definite organization, we are compelled to do business. In so far, then, as we are a business organization, we should recognize the universal standard as to method.

Looking at the question from the standpoint of utility, strict adherence to parliamentary law seems to be necessary. It is unfortunately true that students in women's colleges re-



ceive much excellent training which women in co-educational institutions fail to get ; the former are thrown entirely upon their own resources, they must do everything for themselves ; not infrequently the presidents of their societies are called upon to introduce distinguished men and women to large audiences of faculty and fellow-students. The skillful way in which they perform such duties bespeaks previous training and attention to the universal canons governing such proceedings. On the other hand, women in co-educational institutions do not take the most prominent positions in class and society organizations ; many of them could not conduct a meeting of any kind properly. Undoubtedly our little worlds are more like the great outside world in this respect, but graduates of women's colleges are better able to take their places in the woman's world, and the ability to do this is becoming necessary in this day of organized work on the part of women.

Of course we should not use the fraternity chapter meeting merely as a means to such an end ; but surely it is not unwise to adopt such measures as will benefit not only the individual members, but also the chapter and the fraternity at large. It is a truism that carelessness in details tends to carelessness in important matters.

Almost the only argument against strict adherence to parliamentary law and business-like methods is that they would make the chapter meeting burdensome. Has any chapter abandoned the practice after giving it a fair trial? Would it require too much effort—more than we should be willing to exert on behalf of Kappa Alpha Theta? On the contrary, attention to method ought to make our meetings even more interesting ; at least, business would be business, and it would be dispatched more quickly, leaving more time for the social intercourse which we find so agreeable.

A general recognition by the chapters of this suggestion would have an immediate and timely effect upon our national conventions. Undoubtedly we all feel that they should be conducted strictly upon business lines ; moreover, we know by experience that we cannot pass at once from a state of chaos at home into a state of peaceful order at a convention.

MABEL CALDER DOBBIN.

## CHAPTER LETTERS.

The date upon which the next chapter letter should be sent out is April 5.

Please write on one side only of the paper, and put the personal on separate sheet headed only by the name of the chapter. Any personal communication to the editor should also be written on a separate sheet.

Please note the way the chapter letters are headed and always arrange them in the same way, putting nothing at the head but the names of the chapter and the university.

### Alpha District.

#### IOTA—CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

The Freshmen have solved the problem,—and once more four-fourths make a whole in chapter life. Iota is herself again, and 1900, a new link on our ever-lengthening, ever-tightening chain, has welded together two centuries.

"Asking Day" came late in November, in accordance with the decision of three of the four fraternities,—Alpha Phi still biding (and bidding) her own time. We kept its date closely,—so closely that one of our absent members wrote pleadingly: "Is it too sacred a secret to be entrusted to the mails, my sisters? For I would fain hope and fear with you." Then we told our loyal sister, when we'd ask,—and in due time, we asked the Freshmen when they'd tell.

We asked eight girls. From two the answer came that they could join no fraternity. Two weeks later there came to us in chapter-meeting the last winsome and welcome assent,—a little missive daintily sealed with Theta's black and gold: "To the K. A. @. fraternity, We'll be true through all eternity," and the six were for none but Theta. Honor to whom honor is due, and Thetas to whom Thetas:—Nina



Angell, '00, Kathleen Connor, '98, Marguerite Hempstead, '00, Helen Huebner, '00, Nannine La Villa, '00, and Elizabeth Russell, '99.

It is not the least beautiful characteristic of the fraternity system that it sometimes brings into the closest relation the typical Freshman in college and the representative alumnæ in the world, strong in the memories of her girlhood and the realities of "the eternal womanhood" that "leads us on." Such a privilege the holidays and the home-coming brought to those of us who live in New York City, in the meeting of the Gamma alumnæ chapter at the home of Mrs. Olga Neymann-Glücksman, —one of Iota's charter members. There, in addition to Iota's former and first members, were some of the many members of the alumna chapter who have joined from other chapters: Miss Johnson and Miss Leavens from Lambda, and Miss Titus from Alpha Beta, Mrs. Moody from Epsilon, and Mrs. Martin from Alpha. After the greetings we gathered around Mrs. Glücksman and begged from her the story of the founding of a chapter in Kappa Alpha Theta, of the brave beginning, where all was disbelief and disapproval, (for women's fraternities had not as yet proved their right to exist, and ours was the first at Cornell;) of the break though never a faltering, that came when two of the three girls left Cornell; and of the wise and earnest efforts of the one, Jessie Boulton, who placed the chapter that year on a strong foundation. The story of all our chapters is much the same, probably, and always there are those whose loyalty in the past make a present possible and a future bright, women who gave us nobler lives and nobler cares."

At one of our fall term fêtes,—the inevitable play—Mrs. Nichols gave us a delightful surprise by bringing to us two of our sisters of Kappa Chapter,—Miss Sayre and Miss Dunn, both new juniors at Wells College. Just before the holidays they visited with Mrs. Nichols once again, and came over to Sage for our last chapter-meeting, and to tell us of life at K. U.

Another pleasant surprise was afforded by a little delegation from Chi, who came down one Saturday for the Cornell-Harvard game. Tickets being quite unattainable we had recourse to a tour of the campus and to that feminine dissipation, unlimited conversation. At such times, be it confessed, Iota covets her neighbors' chapter-houses. Alas! ours is ever a *chateau en Espagne*, an ephemeral vision, whither, in the spring, Iota gently turns her thoughts, with love. As yet it exists only in banquet toasts and under classmen's dreams, whose first duty, after graduation, and a year's teaching, is to be the erection of a house quite as sumptuous as the Executive mansion, and rather more modern. Meanwhile, the Trustees will not give us nor any fraternity a house on the campus, and we will not go off the campus, and it follows that the even tenor of our way lies here in dear old Sage.

Athletics among the girls is in a most promising condition. Prominent among the winter indoor sports are tennis and basket ball, the latter of which already boasts a 'varsity team. Next week this 'varsity contributes its talent toward an object dear to the hearts of every Cornellian, the Courtney crew fund. Need popularity or success be questioned for a team which gives a benefit for our ever-glorious but ever-indigent crews?

During the fall we were fortunate enough to meet, while she was with Prof. and Mrs. Roberts, their daughter, Mrs. Mary Roberts Smith, who graduated from Cornell in '82, and is now a professor in Leland Stanford. Mrs. Smith was an inspiration to us in many ways, and as we listened to her own song, the ringing "*Alma Mater*" of Stanford, the students' famous loyalty seemed perfectly natural.

Another college has had a representative with us for a few days. Winifred Ball, '91, Professor of Latin at Vassar, made her stay with us a most pleasant memory, and Vassar a most interesting realty, which seems to us to lack but one element of perfection—there is no Theta chapter there.



## LAMBDA—UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

Since our last letter we have had initiation and are settled down to the work of the year. We wish we might introduce to you our nine new members otherwise than by letter, for we believe they are strong girls and will do much honor to the fraternity. They are Fannie Smith from the class of '99, Fannie Atwood, May Brownell, Amy Burt, Margaret Healey, Ivy Hopkins, Josephine Morris, Laura Stanhope and Helen Thompson, from 1900.

We are glad to have Florence Burdick back with us again this year. She is studying for Ph.D.

One of our Freshmen, Laura Stanhope, was one of the two standing highest in the prize entrance mathematics examination and so won half the prize.

The young ladies of the college are soon to edit one number of the University Cynic. The publication of it is looked forward to with great interest.

Alpha Gamma girls should not think they can do all the rejoicing, for we are proud to say that the new year opens for us a magnificent new Science hall equipped with the most approved appliances and affording rare opportunities for study. That and our library are two of the most beautiful college buildings in New England.

We are glad to report that our chapter seems to be equally prosperous, that our numbers are large, and there is other good material to choose from if we wished. An old graduate who recently visited us said she thought the society had never been in a better condition, at least it had never "looked any better."

## CHI.—SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

Chi has again assembled her daughters after a most delightful and refreshing holiday vacation. It may seem strange, yet we were all so glad to come back and to see each other once more.

The past months have been full of business and pleasure

—not too much of either. We have held some very pleasant little parties in our new home. The first one was on Hallowe'en night and was quite weird and ghostly. We dispensed refreshment to sixty of our girl friends and ended the evening by relating ghost stories.

Omicron of Delta Delta Delta was received by us on November second, Miss Beebe and Miss Adelaide Van Alstine acting as reception committee.

We are glad to welcome Tri-Delta among us and wish them success.

The event of the season, however, was given December third. On that evening, our 1900 delegation was introduced into college society by the '99 girls. The methods of entertainment were very unique as well as enjoyable. About thirty of the men of 1900 were present.

Mable Northrup, '98, gave a coffee November thirteenth to our '98 girls in honor of the announcement of the engagement of Katherine M. Foster, '98, to Mr. Thomas Briggs Baker of this city.

The girls from this chapter who were fortunate enough to be Iota's guests at the big football game last fall, never tire of telling of their good time and of complimenting the Iota sisters. Surely it is at some such time that we feel how privileged we are in belonging to our dear Kappa Alpha Theta.

And now, in closing, happy New Year to all and to all a "good night."

#### ALPHA BETA—SWARTHMORE.

Have not very many of us felt, upon accidentally meeting an unknown fraternity sister, a certain peculiar thrill of delight? Do we not feel when we have given the grip that we have already something in common with this newly met sister, and does it not make us realize more truly the vast extent of our fraternity membership?

We wish it were possible for us to meet more of the mem-



bers from other chapters and for them to visit us, but as that cannot be, we must learn to know one another through our chapter letters, and in this letter we have the pleasure of introducing to you our six freshman sisters, Edith Wilson, Lydia Clothier, Anna Lippincott, Helen Sullivan, Edna Miller and Margery Pyle. This year we have a chapter of seventeen, the largest in the history of Alpha Beta.

Our three initiations were held at the homes of our alumnae members in Philadelphia, Media and Swarthmore. Our alumnae showed their interest in us by their frequent visits to the college and attendance at the initiations, thus proving that their duties and pleasures in the world did not prevent their being loyal to Theta and Alpha Beta. On the 20th of November, Annie and Helen Hillbock, our sisters living in Swarthmore, gave a tea in honor of Annie Atkinson, '94, and invited us and our pledglings. We took our fancy work, and gathered around the open fire we chatted and spent a delightful afternoon together.

Our three seniors took part in the annual Shakespeare entertainment which was given in College Hall on the 19th of December.

We are now busy making arrangements for a Theta reunion on the 27th of January, at the home of one of our members, but we will tell you more of that in our next letter.

Alpha Beta sends best wishes for a most happy and successful year of '97.

#### ALPHA DELTA—WOMAN'S COLLEGE BALTIMORE.

1896 has proved to be a year of prosperity to Alpha Delta. At the beginning of the college year, we looked forward with mingled fear and hope to our first rushing season.

We were only seven, but after November 13th, "Pledge-day," we have numbered fourteen.

Seven splendid girls were initiated into Kappa Alpha Theta's mystic circle on the first Saturday in December—viz: Ida Evans, Nettie Fullerton, Carolyn Golding, Alice Tone, Bonnie Marshall, Zora Baker, and Jeane Dobbins. Our

sister Elizabeth Sooy was present at the ceremony, also Mrs. George Brownell from Chi. After the initiation we banqueted at the Arlington, and discussed bright plans for the future.

Alpha Delta fully intends that its second year shall be even more encouraging and successful than the first. Fourteen determined girls have agreed upon this.

During the holidays, our dear sister Emma Weeks has suffered a great affliction in the sudden death of her father, editor of a prominent Pittsburg paper. In her bereavement she certainly has the true sympathy of Alpha Delta and all Theta sisters.

Through storm or sunshine we shall continue to strive for the attainment of Kappa Alpha Theta's high ideal of womanhood.

Alpha Delta wishes all sister chapters a happy and prosperous year.

### Beta District.

#### BETA—INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

'97 brings to Indiana University the prospect of one thousand students. We Republican girls feel sure that this increase is all due to McKinley. We can hear the Bryan sisters all ready with an argument—but dear sisters, space will not permit, and the fact remains.

We have a fine new Chapel building and the prospect of two new dormitories next year. This will be an entirely new departure for Bloomington but we feel sure that it will be of much benefit to the students.

In our November letter we promised to introduce you to some new Thetas. As Theta always keeps her promises we present them, twelve strong :—Clara Offut, Ella Marthens, Jotilda Conklin, Mary Elizabeth Snyder, Nellie May Bowser, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mabel Thompson, Elizabethtown; Agnes Ross Reynolds, Richmond; Minnie Ethel Townsend,



Vincennes ; Marie Boisen, Laura Woodburn, Lettie Miller, Jessie Simmons, Bloomington, Indiana.

We feel justly proud of this "spike," having lost no propositions and having gained five girls after a long and exciting contest.

Notwithstanding the fact that our Chapter is very large we feel that the girls are all true and loyal Thetas working hard to bring honor to the black and gold.

Beta chapter sends best wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year to all her sister chapters.

DELTA—UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

On the evening of November 31st we gave a rushing spread at the home of Louise Jones. All the members were present as well as the four girls who were our guests of honor. Sixteen merry girls sat down at the table decorated with the black and gold and laden with its many good things for a spread is the delight of Delta chapter. According to our contract we could not pledge any new girls until December 1st, so we spent a merry evening and after the clock had struck twelve, in less time than it takes to write it, we had the colors on four pledglings to K. A. ., the four most desirable new girls in school. We are very happy to introduce to you Josephine Green, Ethel Brown, Bessie Palmer and Lulu Plant. We are now planning what we intend shall be a model initiation for our girls who we know will be the most loyal of Thetas.

Mrs. Draper, the President's wife and one of our patronesses, gave us a most charming party in the early part of the term. We regarded it as a still greater honor as it was the first formal party ever given in the President's beautiful new home. About a month later Miss Mary Burnham, another patroness entertained our chapter and friends. Besides these, we had a number of cozy little gatherings to meet the new girls and get little glimpses of their characters.

We close, hoping that the New Year has begun as brightly for all Thetas as it has for us.

## EPSILON—WOOSTER UNIVERSITY.

Epsilon is sorry that the JOURNAL is too late to wish you all the customary Happy New Year but the wish that this may be the 'best year yet' for each and all of you, chapters and individual girls, is still in our hearts.

We cannot leave the best till the last in this letter because we are too anxious to tell you of our glad new girls.

The opposing chapter could not see its way clear to bid the Fall Term and we could not see the advantage in waiting until the middle of the Winter or Spring term so no date was agreed upon and each chose her own time for "bidding." The Theta bids came out first for by the second week of October Epsilon was thoroughly convinced that Anna Vergin, Evelyn Harrington, Gertrude Jones, Mary Anderson and Miss Gertrude Ormsby were the choice girls and the only true Theta hearts just then among the college girls. These five bids were all accepted at once with the exception of the last named, who regrets as much as we do that her parents can see no good in fraternity life. Would that they were here that we might prove our worth!

As our four new girls and Miss Ormsby received the very pleasant company of our college friends gathered, in their honor, at the pretty new home of Mrs. John Criley, we delighted to share our joy with those present and were not less proud as we said, "These are our jewels," than was Ohio when she so proudly pointed to her statesmen as *her jewels*.

Pledging Mary Anderson we initiated with the other three Bessie Marie Davidson, already old in family life, yet new to her chapter duties, and we hope soon to enjoy giving the mystic ritual vows to Irene Flattery, '00.

Nutting and Hallow e'en parties we had, of course, yet social life at college has not been so gay this year as usual. Theta has enjoyed several little spreads in her rooms, however, and busy with other pleasant tasks, feels no lack of good times. As Mae Pepper, one of our own old girls was here at the time we were especially disappointed that we



could not ourselves have some little entertainment for Miss Daisy Florence Simms of Alpha, traveling secretary of Y. W. C. A., but as many of us are Y. W. girls and the Y. W. claimed her time, we could but meekly submit.

The autumn weather has staid so long with us this fall that this morning as we went to the opening lecture we greeted winter with the same glad smile and hand shake we did our other friends. May she add to her white cloak till we can start our merry bells to jingling and snugly packed in bob sled boxes let our Theta enthusiasm blow on the winds from east to west and north to south for that we know we can only gain by giving.

Epsilon has not a wedding to report in this letter, but only because that of Helen Howard Jeffries to Joseph Angell, which took place on October 14, was written of before the knot was really tied. It was a very pretty home wedding at any rate and the bride has gone to Chicago and will make an enjoyable and enthusiastic member of Delta Alumnæ. Our college world often makes itself felt among the towns people. The last burst of enthusiasm being the donning of the Oxford cap and gown by the seniors, who first wore them to the Ladies' Symphony Orchestra, one of the most enjoyable evenings which our University lecture course affords. It added much to the amusement of the crowd when some of the boys escorted their ladies to their seats cap on head, forgetting all custom in their excited class spirit.

We have sadly said good-bye to our president, Daisy Gray, who was compelled to go home a bundle of nerves, but we hope she can soon disentangle the mesh and come back to help us as we start the new year and the new winter term with a united determination to have the best possible meetings and an enthusiastic happy circle, one in hopes, one in heart and one in the womanhood of Theta.

## ETA—UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Eta extends New Year's greetings to all Thetas.

Eta has had a very happy and fortunate year so far. Since our last letter we initiated our three pledges, Edith Dann, Louise Gibbs, and Jeanette Blanchard. We had a very nice initiation. Myra Post and Harriet Waller being with us added to our good time. Many of the other girls let us know that they were with us in spirit by sending lovely flowers and notes of welcome to the new girls. One note which was especially appreciated was from Mrs. Smoot of Chicago, who was one of the members of the original Eta.

We have had a number of exclusively Theta social pleasures of late. Mrs. Adams entertained the Chapter at her lovely home one Saturday afternoon. We played cards during the afternoon and after a delicious supper was served, we danced for awhile. The Saturday evening before college closed we gave a little Christmas party. We had a small tree with a present on it for each person, the presents caused a great deal of merriment as they were strictly juvenile.

We enjoy our social evenings very much this year, we meet every other Saturday evening and enjoy ourselves according to our fancy. It is a pleasant recreation after our hard work and we get to know each other better by the frequent meetings.

Eta was pleased to see from the letter in the last Journal, that so many Chapters had entered into rushing agreements. It was done one year here with what we considered satisfactory results. The next year we endeavored to bring about another agreement but unsuccessfully. There are seven national sororities here and one local society so that the competition is quite fierce and a good many societies seem to think that the first chance is the best. May Theta continue to grow in strength and her members in loyalty during this year just begun.



## KAPPA—UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

If you had seen us while we were waiting for the November Journal you would have laughed, I know. Almost every morning from the first of November until the long-looked for magazine arrived, a flock of girls would meet Grace Poff in the hall when she came up the hill in the morning, clamoring "Have the Journals come?" Until at last she threatened to wear a sign announcing that "They have not arrived!" Kappa wishes to present Iota with hearty congratulations upon her success as an editing chapter.

We have been far from idle since our last letter. Beside the ten girls we have already presented to you, we pledged, about the middle of October, Lucile Knight of Beloit, who, on October 24, with six others was introduced to Kappa's Kat. Initiation was held at the home of Mrs. Julia Howe and as the house was given up to us from garret to cellar you can imagine the splendid time we had.

About the middle of November, Miss Josephine Shellabarger of Topeka, entered the University. Her sister, Mrs. Clara Macferran, was a charter member of Tau, so a few days after her arrival we gave a reception for her to meet the Thetas, both the active chapter and the large number of resident alumnæ. The next week was an exciting one to Kappa, for Miss Shellabarger had many friends in Pi Beta Phi, and the issue was for a time doubtful. However, on November 24 she put on the black and gold bow and on December 10 a quiet initiation gave us a new sister to be proud of.

Several of the girls went down to Kansas City, Missouri, for the Thanksgiving football game between University of Kansas and University of Missouri. We came home with joyful hearts and flying colors for the score was 30 to 0, the greatest victory we have ever won over our ancient antagonists.

There still remains one more event to be told about—the big fair for the benefit of the pipe organ fund. The Univer-

sity has long needed a pipe organ for the chapel, so immediately after Thanksgiving the Dean of the Music School, Prof. Penny, called into consultation the various organizations and we decided to give a big fair the last three days of school before the Christmas vacation. It was quite a success for we raised over \$400, which we consider is doing well for these hard times. Almost every University organization had a booth. We were ambitious and ran two, a Japanese tea garden and gypsy cave where fortunes were told. The tea garden was a quaint looking little place with palms, screens and low tea tables behind a lattice work. The decorations were lanterns, panels, Jap knick knacks, etc., the color scheme red and white, and the maidens serving tea were—so people said—an excellent imitation of the imported “real thing.” The gypsy cave was reached by a gloomy passage, lighted by a red glow and inhabited by two gypsies skilled in the lore of palmistry. The girls had a great deal of fun out of it, as it was an excellent chance to tell people “what they thought of them.”

There were two voting contests, one night for the most original booth and one for the prettiest booth. We won the first night—the prize was a piano lamp—beating Kappa Kappa Gamma by a score of 190 to 161. The second night we tried to withdraw since we had gotten one prize and did not want to try for everything. But the others objected so we entered and won a banquet lamp by a score of 600 to 460, our chief antagonist this time being Pi Beta Phi.

This is the sum of the happenings thus far, for school opens after vacation on January 5.

Kappa wishes you all a happy New Year.

NU—HANOVER COLLEGE.

Nu chapter sends greetings, to her sister chapters, and wishes them all a most pleasant and successful new year. Our girls (so it seems) have been more fortunate than some others as our College has not yet begun. Our Profs were



kind and considerate, were they not? It is my private opinion, they enjoy the holidays as well if not better (could that be possible) than the students.

Our girls have not met as yet this new year, but are, no doubt, as enthusiastic as when they left. We began our plans for working some of the nice girls, and for changes and improvements in the character of our work. We had also been looking forward to one of those most delightful of all things—a reception given by the young ladies.

I must not forget to mention that we had a most delightful and exciting initiation and “spread” last term when we took in Miss Mary Torrance, of LaCrosse, Wis. She is a Freshman, and a very lovely girl.

I feel it as never before that the Theta girls are at the “top notch,” are not the other girls prepared to agree.

#### PI—ALBION COLLEGE.

Again, after the short Christmas vacation, Pi members are assembled for work.

During the fall term our number was increased by the addition of seven of Albion's strongest girls. The first of these to wear the “kite” were Emma Osborne, Mabel Bliss and Marion Hanlon, all from the Freshman class. A little later Cora May, '98, and Lena Hunt, 1900, were taken out to the home of Belle McPherson, '96, where they were introduced to Billy, after which a dainty supper was served. The ride home on the “hay-rack” in the “wee sma’” hours was by no means the least enjoyable part of the trip. The last to enter Greekdom were Isabel Wright, 1900, and Gertrude Strickland, 1900, to whom we gave the grip November twentieth.

Besides our initiates, we have one pledgling, Nellie Ray, an exceptionally fine girl, whom we hope to see wearing the kite next June. We are proud, indeed, to introduce these, our babies, to our sister chapters, and hope all have been as successful in their rushing as Pi.

Our minds turn chiefly upon lodge at present and our tongues run in about the same channel. We are still hoping to have a permanent home in the spring, but we will not inflict our plans upon our sisters.

Our hearts were gladdened during the last three weeks of last term by the presence of Zula Fast, '96, who returned to do work in the studio. We have with us also this year, Maude Hallenbeck, '96, who is studying in the conservatory.

Many pleasant social events took place last term, but the most enjoyable was a reception held at one of our finest homes. It was given by the sororities in honor of the Oberlin Glee Club immediately following their concert.

We wish all sister chapters a Happy New Year.

#### RHO—NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY.

Our short vacation over, we have two fresh tablets upon which to engrave our ambitions and resolutions—a New Year and a New Semester. The ghosts of past examinations have ceased to haunt us and our circle is happy and light hearted, rejoicing in additional strength given by our three new sisters. Edith Schwartz, '98, Grace MacMillian, '99, Jane Cobb Macfarland, '99, and Eleanor Williams, our pledgling, of '92, are now honored members of Rho. We know you all join with us in welcoming them as sisters. On the evening of October sixteenth, at the home of Miss Latta, Theta's chosen were formally initiated. It was one of the prettiest ceremonies we have had, and the banquet following was no less pleasurable in its turn. Toasts were responded to by our president and different members of the fraternity and alumnae, Dena Loomis giving us the history of the first establishment of Rho in the university. After an appreciated invasion by our gentlemen friends, we dispersed, mentally recording more victories for Theta. Eleanor Williams left us for her duties in Minneapolis, where we are certain her personal charms will win her many warm friends in Upsilon. We congratulate ourselves on having obtained



very desirable girls this year. Other fraternities exceed us in numbers, but quantity does not necessarily bespeak strength. Unity is the stronghold of fraternity life and proud is the chapter that can chant

“ We are not divided ;  
All one body we.”

Rho is much pleased to learn from Alpha Gamma that President Canfield is as popular in O. S. U. as he was in U. of N. She is very fortunate to be under his guidance and protection. To him U. of N. owes much of her strength and power, not only in the state, but among her neighbors.

The annual Pershing Rifles hop came off before the holidays. It is always a welcome occasion in university circles and Theta girls enjoy it with their scores of friends.

The social side of our chapter life has not been neglected. Rho is never so happy and content as when the end of the week finds books discarded for a time and all her merry girls forming a circle, which may be called mystic, according to Webster, for certainly many plans and ambitious schemes brought forth are “ remote from human comprehension.”

We enjoyed a Hallowe'en party at the home of Lida Millar, and weird fortunes traced in mystic ink, pumpkin pie and milk, jack o' lanterns and such inducements for visitations of spooks and witches, reigned supreme.

Quite a number of our girls live in and near the city, and during the holidays Emily Weeks delightfully entertained us at her home. It was the eve of the New Year and we welcomed it gladly, bidding a fond farewell to the past, however, as '96 will always hold for us the dearest of memories.

With warmest greetings and best wishes for '97.

UPSILON—UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

Upsilon is compelled to send a rather short letter this time on account of a lack of very much news.

Since our last letter, we initiated Carrie Elton of Owatonna

on December 19th, and by so doing have much increased our strength. She is a very strong, bright and charming girl, and we know that she will be a great help to us.

We gave a very pretty girls dancing party at the Hotel Waverly on the afternoon of December 30. We had the dining-room for dancing and this was very prettily arranged with little tête-à-têtes in every corner and decorated with palms. We enjoy these informal dove-parties ever so much and it gives us excellent opportunities to get acquainted with one another.

We regret very much that we are soon to lose Lou Hotchkiss, '98. She was not in college this year, but has been a great help to us in assisting at parties and helping us rush. We shall be very sorry to see her depart for Kansas next month.

We have two visiting Thetas at College this year,—Miss Morse of Alpha, and Eleanor Williams of Rho, who is working for her Major in Latin.

Our fraternity life, since the rushing season is finished has been very quiet and peaceful. Just now of course, we are scattered during our vacation. Our past year has been very prosperous and our prospects are certainly very bright for the year to come. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

PSI—UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Psi again sends greetings to all her sisters. We are very happy now and rejoicing much because we succeeded, during the holidays, in "sticking" the last dear girl that we shall probably pledge this year. Since the last number of the JOURNAL we have pledged and initiated two more sweet little Freshmen, Mollie Strong and Alice Jones.

Almost by the time this letter reaches you we shall have initiated the three pledglings who yet remain: Mary and Florence Bump and Mirah Congdon. We now have seven new girls, making thirteen in the active chapter. Our lucky number, we call it.



We were all glad to get back to college after the holidays and compare notes as to the kindness of Santa Claus.

Not much of importance has occurred in the chapter since our last letter.

At the time of the great Minnesota game we were fortunate enough to have with us two of the Upsilon girls, Gesena Koch and Isabella Armstrong. In the evening we gave an informal for them, entertaining quite a number of Minnesota men.

In a week we give our annual large party in Fuller Hall and expect to have some of Tau's "fossils" with us. We have had two or three of the old girls here visiting at different times, and it brought back the old days in a delightful manner.

At our last fraternity meeting before the holidays we were given a little "surprise." At the close of the business meeting the folding doors of the dining room were thrown open and there upon the table stood a Christmas tree of tiny dimensions, covered with ornaments and lighted with "play" candles. On the floor was a clothes basket filled with great knobby parcels. Each girl was blindfolded in turn and given a cane with which to fish out a present. They were all funny, such as tin kitchens, trains of cars, rubber dolls, etc.

Another sorority has been added to those already in Madison. Alpha Phi granted a charter to some very sweet girls in Ladies' Hall. Phi Kappa Psi is also about to be established here.

Our new gymnasium in the basement of Ladies' Hall is at last finished, and we are all looking forward with delight to the new work. Basket ball teams will be formed soon.

Work on the new Library Hall is progressing slowly. When it is finished we shall have a beautiful building.

With many wishes for a happy and prosperous year for all Thetas.

## ALPHA GAMMA—OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

The Christmas "Holidays," which are anticipated the whole semester, by college girls, are over! and we are steeling ourselves for the coming "exams". But the new term has so many bright things in store for us, that I must not dwell on such a lugubrious subject.

We are planning an initiation for this term and the new girls are of course most enthusiastic over the project. With that wild goat ride last October, fresh in mind they tingle to administer a similar degree, and to shift the title of "the new Thetas" upon more untried shoulders.

How tardy I am in introducing them to you Thetas all, but it is because they seem so much a part of us already, that I forget they have not always known how to fly a kite. It was a happy day for K. A. Θ. when we added to her roll the names: Margaret Pulling, Edith Hunter, Helen Powell. Epsilon's loss has been our gain in Florence Durstine, who comes to us this month wearing the emblem of a pledge. We anticipate replacing her chapter head, with a pin, next fall, when she enters college.

The past semester has been rather quiet, both in college and fraternity but we had some very happy gatherings among ourselves, and enjoyed a tea and a spread or two as only quiet kittens can. This month we entertain all our friends at two informal dances given a week apart.

Perhaps the most auspicious event in university calendars was the Glee Club Concert in December, as it marked the formal opening of the beautiful new chapel. We have needed one sorely and the room is now so large and attractive that it is the pride of the President and students alike. The concert was followed by a reception in Hayes Hall and was a delightful affair.

Editha Dann's recess at home was a great pleasure to us all, she being doubly dear to Alpha Gamma, as a Theta sister and Lois's too. We spent a charming afternoon at their home welcoming her among us, and listening to the inter-



esting accounts she gave of chapter life in Ann Arbor. I wish we might visit each other more, in this way, and feel that Lambda and Omega were separated in name rather than by distance.

Lillian Krumm has satisfied our heartfelt desire for a real "Theta home" and promises to let us visit her at any and all times. She is the first of the Alpha Gamma girls to marry and we feel henceforth assured of a chaperon on all occasions. I wish I had time to tell you more of the chapter and the new girls whom we love and are proud of, but we shall hope to let you see and know them all at the convention, and meanwhile may we all make '97 the best year we have ever had.

#### Gamma District.

##### PHI—LELAND STANFORD JR. UNIVERSITY.

It is a pleasure for Phi to stop in the middle of her holidays and wish all her sisters a bright and happy New Year—a new year that will bring many pleasant things to all Kappa Alpha Thetas.

But we must not forget the old year that has just gone by. Phi has had some good times since she wrote her last letter. On the thirtieth of October we gave a very pleasant German at the pretty home of our president, David Starr Jordan. The large oak trees in the yard were hung with Japanese lanterns so that the driveway looked like the entrance to fairyland. Nor were our guests undeceived when they stepped into the prettily decorated parlors and heard the music coming from among the bamboo in the hall. After a few dances came the German led by May Hume and Otis Wight who must have the credit for the success of the pretty figures—especially one in the shape of our Theta pin. When we came to refreshments our ice-cream had disappeared—no one knows where—and we were obliged to serve our guests with ordinary ice-cream from Rice's. When we

finally said good-night we were assured by all that it was one of the pleasantest parties ever given at Stanford.

The day before Thanksgiving we all went to May Hume's beautiful home in Oakland, taking with us three girls to introduce to the mysteries of Kappa Alpha Theta :—Elizabeth Hogue, Frances Patterson and Alice Carey. There we found a Thanksgiving dinner awaiting us which was a very happy surprise to all. The initiation was very pretty and a great success. A banquet followed which was enjoyed by an unusually happy set of girls. It was a great pleasure to have two sisters from Omega with us that night. The next day we all went to the "big foot ball game" in San Francisco, with the University of California, and waved the Cardinal with great enthusiasm. That we enjoyed every minute you can see from the score—20 to 0 in favor of Stanford.

We hope this old year has brought just as many good times to all Thetas and that the new year has in store nothing but happiness and success.

#### OMEGA—UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

In looking over the fraternity events of last term the initiation stands out as the most important. This was held on the evening of November 6, at the home of Edna Wickson, and six new Thetas were at this time welcomed by Omega, Elsie Guthrie and Gertrude LaMotte, of '99, and May Bently, Minnie Wilson, Lena Macaulay and Elizabeth Hoyt, of the class of 1900. Besides the active chapter, several of the alumnæ were present, and of those, who were unable to come, two showed that they were with us in thought, Lou Whipple, who telegraphed her congratulations, and Julia Morgan, who sent us souvenirs from Switzerland.

Since our last letter, one of our seniors, Lucretia Watson, has been compelled to leave college on account of ill-health, but we hope to have her with us again next year.

We are all very much interested in the coming convention and much of our time this term is to be spent in gathering thoughts and ideas for it.



As college girls we are rejoicing at the brilliant future which is opening before our Alma Mater. Mrs. Phoebe Hurst, by her generous gift, has rendered possible the erection of two fine buildings, and besides this the regents are assured of a \$4,000,000 endowment. Mr. Maybeck of the faculty, a graduate of Beaux Arts, Paris, has gone East to arrange for a competition, both there and abroad, for general plans of the buildings and grounds, and in the near future we hope to have our campus adorned with buildings which will correspond with the magnificence of their location.

With such prospects of increased power and strength before our university, the new year gives promise of being a profitable one for Omega.

## PERSONALS.

### DELTA.

Marion Thompson, '95, was married in October to Mr. Benjamin Gratz of St. Louis, at her home in Bement, Ill. They sailed for England the following week and will spend a year travelling upon the continent.

Georgia Bennett, '96, is teaching English and Latin in the High School at Rochelle, Ill.

Miss Katherine Merrill, assistant professor of English at the U. of I., has been granted a leave of absence and will spend the coming year studying in Germany.

Isabelle Noble, '96, is teaching physical culture in the schools at Rochelle, Ill.

May Phoenix-Cameron was the contralto soloist at the annual Christmas performance of the Messiah, given by the Apollo Musical Club, in Chicago. The press spoke highly of her voice and her rendition of the solos. Those who were fortunate enough to hear the Oratorio know that Mrs. Cameron won the applause she received.

### EPSILON.

We all enjoyed having Daisy Florence Simms of Alpha with us in the early part of November, although she did not come to see us, but as traveling secretary of the Y. W. C. A. We wish we might have an opportunity of meeting each of you even for so short a time as it makes us realize the more how pleasant 'tis to be a Theta.

Miss Mae Pepper, '83, spent two or three days with her Theta class mate, Martha E. McClellan, during the fall term.

Mildred Packer, '96, now teaching English at Tiffin, Ohio, spent both her Thanksgiving vacation and her two weeks at Christmas with her mother who is matron of our new "Hoover Cottage" and mothers all the college girls.



Dora Anderson, '95, still teaching at Cedarville, stopped off for a day with her sister Mary on her way home to Loudonville where she spent her Christmas holidays.

Mary Rohm, '95, who is at Richmond, Ill., occupying the same position she filled last year, came home to spend Christmas and New Years with her parents and Epsilon sisters.

Since forwarding the JOURNAL letter Epsilon has been delighted to welcome back to college circles, Daisy Gray, whose health has sufficiently improved to permit her return.

## ETA.

We have occasional letters, always long and cheery ones, from Nellie McCaughan. The balmy climate of Mexico (or free silver) is evidently improving Nell's health and we are encouraged to look for her return to us in the fall. The girls of Phi sent her to us and we realize that their loss was our gain. We are glad that Dorothy Roth has gone to be with Phi, if she could not endure the rigor of our climate.

Martha Chadbourne is teaching this winter in the Cedar Rapids High School. She is near enough home so that she spends Sundays with her parents.

Bertha Hull is enjoying her winter and is making great progress in her art work at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

Gertrude Hull is teaching in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Gale girls are enjoying the winter together teaching science in the Decatur, Ill., High School.

Harriette Waller and Caroline Morvey are teaching at home, in Saginaw, Michigan. They have rejoiced the hearts of the girls in the chapter house, one by a jolly little visit at initiation and the other by her gift of two water colors. We wish you might all see Caroline's ideal initiation, as she paints it.

## KAPPA.

Mabel Sayre and Katherine Dunn are attending Wells College at Aurora, N. Y., near Cornell. We owe Iota

many thanks for the cordial and sisterly way she has treated our far away girls.

Winifred Churchill, '94, and James Owen,  $\Phi. K. \Psi.$ , were married at her home in Lawrence this fall. They are to live in Cripple Creek, Colorado, where Mr. Owen is well established in the practice of law.

Agnes Lee, a pledgling of this year, has been called home on account of her mother's illness.

Mrs. Rilla Van Hoesan-Challiss visited Lawrence Thetas during the Thanksgiving recess.

Mrs. Mary Stone-Ellison spent the holidays at her home in Lawrence.

#### LAMBDA.

Leirion Johnson, '96, is studying art at Cooper Institute, New York.

Ruth Morton, '96, is teaching at Wells River, Vt.

We are glad to report that Jessie Scott, '96, who has lately undergone a severe operation, is slowly but surely recovering.

Bessie Wright, '94, has finished her school at Newport, and will spend the holidays at home.

Clara Johnson, ex-'99, has entered Radcliffe.

#### PI.

Zula Fast, '96, spent the last three weeks of the fall term in Albion.

Vieva Parmater, '96, is teaching at Gaylord.

Pearl Field, '96, is teaching at Chelsea.

Belle McPherson, '96, is engaged in the Albion city schools this year.

Blanche Selway, ex-'98, is spending the year at her home in Dillon, Montana.

Lotta Page of Lansing returns to take up her college work this term.

Minnie Thompson, '96, is taking conservatory work in Chicago University.

Bertha Potter is teaching music at her home in Ovid.



Mary Garfield, '94, visited her Theta sisters the latter part of last term.

Zella Stark, '89, is teaching in Michigan State Normal.

PHI.

Miss Lenora Schopbach, '96, is teaching English and History in the Santa Rosa High School.

Miss Maud Grover, '96, is teaching in the High School at Watsonville, Cal.

Mrs. Carrie Bean Burwell, '93, is living in Palo Alto, where Mr. Burwell is pastor of the Methodist church.

Miss Ada Edwards is an assistant in the Girls' Gymnasium this year, and is also teaching gymnastics at Castilleja Hall.

Miss Kate Nash, '95, is teaching in the Pasadena High School.

Miss Henrietta Stadtmüller, '95, is traveling in Europe.

Miss Helen Vinyard, ex-'98, is teaching in Los Angeles.

Married—At Normal, Ill., Miss Harriet Tyffe, '95, and Mr. Emmet Lee Richardson A.M., '92. At Home, Evansville, Indiana.

Miss Lenora Schopbach, '96, is spending her Christmas holidays at Stanford—it is a great pleasure to see her among us again.

CHI.

Mary L. Holmes, ex-'98, spent the Thanksgiving week with Chi.

We have received numerous calls from our district president, May Estelle Brown.

Miss Sarah Carson, College Secretary of the Y. W. C. A., was entertained at the chapter house for some days.

Gertrude E. Burlingham, '96, spent the election recess among us.

Gertrude E. Virgil, '98, represents Chi on the board of the "Onondagan," the publication of the Junior class.

Mrs. Jennie J. Brownell, '95, is again spending the winter in Baltimore with her husband, Prof. George Brownell.

Ina Kinsey, '99, is instructor in drawing in Kinsey Seminary, LaGrange, N. C.

The engagement of Katherine M. Foster, '98, to Thomas Briggs Baker, of Syracuse, N. Y., is announced.

#### OMEGA.

Elsie Lee, '89 who has been teaching in the Oakland High School has gone East to take a course of study at the Chicago University.

The engagement of Amanda Krenz, Dec. '94 and Frederick Koch,  $\Phi. \Delta. \Theta.$ , has just been announced.

Julia Morgan, '94, is studying architecture in Paris. Recently she had a very pleasant meeting with Miss Stadtmüller of Phi.

Mary McLean '95, is spending the winter in Rome. Grace Fisher '89 also expects to be there for a time.

#### ALPHA GAMMA.

Lillian Krumm who graduated in '94, was married New Year's eve to Mr. Harry Rush Wilson a '94 law student.

Austa Kelley, '99, was with us three weeks in November, visiting among the girls.

Florence Durstine, whom Epsilon pledged in June, is in Columbus preparing to enter O. S. U. next Fall.

Esther Stafford visited her sister two months in Kenton, Ohio.

Etta Weber is meeting with success in her musical classes this winter.

Editha Dann, Eta's new member, was home for the holidays and was a sister to us for two weeks.

Emma Blesch is teaching in Columbus schools.



## EDITORIAL.

Our chapter secretaries have in various ways earned the gratitude of the editor in the course of her official work. Never has she had to re-write a chapter letter because it was written upon both sides of the paper. Almost all the chapters are careful to head their letters correctly, to leave a margin of blank paper, to write proper names with care and to attend to the many little details that have to be observed when writing for publication. Also the letters are almost always sent out on time. For all of these things the editor is profoundly grateful, and so perhaps she may be allowed, after her acknowledgment of the good things that have fallen to her lot to offer a few criticisms and suggestions upon some other points. It might seem that after the chapter correspondent had attended to all these minor, although not unimportant details, had made sure that her grammar, spelling and English, were, if not beyond criticism, as nearly so as she could make them, she might feel that she had done her duty and that neither an exacting conscience nor a critical editor could ask for more.

The reader, however, does ask for more, although she will the more readily forgive other shortcomings if the writer proves by her attention to details that it was not through neglect or carelessness that her letter fell short of what is expected of her. In the choice of corresponding secretary for the chapter other considerations may have more weight, but in the case of the JOURNAL correspondent the choice should fall upon the girl who is known to be able to write a good and readable letter, and in every case the letter should be submitted to the chapter before it is sent to the JOURNAL. This may seem like an unnecessary suggestion, but one is forced to the conclusion that it is not so in every case. The chapter is judged largely by the chapter letter and for this

reason the editor does not feel at liberty to make other than unimportant alterations. If this were always remembered perhaps the chapter would not risk its reputation by leaving it so freely and absolutely in the hands of the corresponding secretary, who, under the pressure of other work, is often tempted to slight her duty in this respect and forget the responsibility of her position.

To give exact rules in a case like this is impossible ; conditions vary and so do corresponding secretaries, and the best that we can do is to suggest a number of negative directions. When one criticises an otherwise bright letter, well written so far as outward form is concerned, the fundamental trouble usually seems to be a lack of dignity, not of expression but of feeling. Dignity is not often our first thought when we are trying to have a good time, and we do not urge that it should be made so. Yet we should remember that if we would avoid creating an impression of youth that verges upon childishness, in the mind of the unsympathetic reader, we must touch lightly upon certain occurrences which were enjoyable enough to those who were in the spirit of the occasion, but which seem lacking in dignity when they appear in print.

In the chapter that has just given its largest social event of the year, said event fills a great part of each girl's thoughts, and if well described it will be of especial interest to the alumnæ of the chapter and should form part, but not the whole, of a good letter. Something of more general interest and which will give to a stranger a truer idea of the chapter life is always available and should not be overlooked nor neglected.

Another point of importance that comes really under the same heading is any reference to our relations to other fraternities. If you have gained a girl only after a long and hard contest, say so by all means, but remember that good taste and generosity both forbid that you should mention your rival by name.

The question of slang and provincialisms of expression is



spoken of elsewhere in this issue. If what is said seems over critical, try to imagine yourself in the position of one who has never before heard these expressions that are so familiar and full of meaning to you and try to realize how they would sound if heard for the first time.

Consider, too, that during the fall term all over this great country you and your sister chapters have been busy initiating girls who are in every respect the most ideal students who have ever entered a university and joined a fraternity, and try in stating the fact to do so as calmly as possible and not to gush more than is absolutely necessary. The initiates themselves will appreciate your self control fully as much as your other readers.

In speaking of initiations one other suggestion may not be inappropriate. The goat may be a necessary adjunct to an initiation, but this fact, if indeed it is a fact, should not be forced upon us any more than is absolutely necessary. It is apt to convey the impression that our beautiful ceremony of initiation is marred by additions that are, to say the least, far from impressive or appropriate.

The suggestion that it is a good plan to take notes of anything of interest that comes up in the course of the term may be of value to some over-worked secretary, who never gives the JOURNAL letter a thought before she writes it. But after all is said and done, it is not so much what is said as the way that it is said. And the long-suffering and much-criticised chapter correspondent will patiently read this latest criticism, acknowledge its truth and comfort herself with the thought that the ideal letter writer is born, not made (which is not strictly true), that she has not yet appeared, and that she herself is no worse than her neighbors.

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It is encouraging to hear the new members ask that definite work be assigned to them instead of being satisfied with the position of general usefulness to the upper classmen who are doing the real work of the chapter. The new members are right. Do not fear that they will lose the humble spirit of usefulness that is their rightful attitude by being en-

trusted with work that is of more importance to the fraternity as a whole. Rather they will gain in every way by working under the direction of the girls who are older in fraternity life and experience. They will gain very much in what they will learn of the working of the fraternity as a whole and also in their appreciation of it. Just so soon as a chapter becomes careless enough to neglect its work will it begin to lose in fraternity spirit and interest and in the advantages that result therefrom. We never really care for anything until we have worked for it, and so the older we are in fraternity life the more we appreciate it. Why, then, when our fraternity life lasts such a short time at best, should we not make the most of it?

Nor will the new girl be the only beneficiary if her request is complied with and she is allowed to take her rightful share of the work that has to be done. In some chapters the offices are never filled by girls who come to them with no previous training, but by those who have assisted their predecessors for some given time in the work of the particular office. The individual girl gains a more intimate knowledge of the fraternity and its workings more quickly and thoroughly by this means than she could in any other way. The chapter gains by the way in which her first fresh enthusiasm, properly directed, will accomplish the work that falls to her share. The fraternity and chapter both gain by the character of the work done by an officer who understands the duties of her position and attends to them promptly, fully and accurately, and who realizes how important it is to the fraternity as well as to the chapter that all work should be thus carefully and accurately attended to.

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Because of an unavoidable delay it is impossible to announce the time and place of the convention in this JOURNAL, as our Grand President expected to do. The decision will be made within a very short time, but whatever the result may be it does not affect the work of preparation that we would remind our readers should be going on in each chapter.



## EXCHANGES.

In the November number of *The Alpha Phi Quarterly* the question of admitting special students to membership in the fraternity is discussed at some length. We quote in part:

On general principles, of course, that fraternity is the strongest which takes in only students who are working for a degree. Upon one or two chapters, however,—outside the exceptions noted—this prohibition bids fair to become somewhat of an oppression, and its wisdom, to the mind of the editor, is at least an open question. It has always been a well recognized fact that the sentiment of the fraternity has been against the initiation of specials. Yet exceptions have been made to this rule, when such students were doing unusually good work of several years' duration, and it would be difficult to find any but isolated cases that have resulted unfavorably. On the other hand it can be proved that some of these specials have done much to strengthen the fraternity. Indeed, the chances of the exceptional special student as opposed to the average regular, are in favor of the special.

A consideration of the greatest good to the greatest number is certainly not without weight, and theoretically the argument is very satisfactory, and lofty, and convincing. But practically, the fraternity is strong only as each individual chapter is strong, and whatever weakens one chapter weakens the whole organization to that extent. We may be very willing to assert that the fraternity will suffer if special students are admitted to certain chapters, but we are not so willing to concede that it will suffer to an equal degree if they cannot be taken into other chapters. Yet the question is as broad as it is long—and while it is much easier to be extreme, fairness would seem to run with the middle course.

Of course, other things being equal, the student who is working for a degree makes a stronger member of a fraternity than does one who intends to do special work in the college for a year only.

Fraternity spirit and interest grow with the length of time that a girl remains in her chapter and the fraternity bonds

are likely to be stronger and more durable at the end of four years than at the end of one year. Nevertheless in some institutions some of the most desirable fraternity material is to be found among the women who register as special students, and intend to remain only one year. These are usually women of somewhat broader experience than is usually possessed by the average freshman girl, and in joining a fraternity they often add to it a balance and strength which might not otherwise be so easily gained.

From *The Kappa Alpha Journal* for November we make several quotations. The first gives some timely words of advice to the new initiate which may be profitably read by the initiates of other fraternities as well as by those of Kappa Alpha.

The new member has already discovered that to be connected with this fraternity is more than a meaningless formality ; that Kappa Alpha is not a prep. organization, and if he is possessed of those sterling qualities of character that he was believed to embody when he was invited to join, he will give serious attention to the study of those ideals and principles that he has now obligated himself to uphold and will apply them in his practical, every-day life. The expert in any capacity is he who has most faithfully applied himself to the study of the fundamental details of his subject and has with equal care kept pace with its development. Just so with the expert Kappa Alpha. You must familiarize yourself with the constitution and ritual and the historical development of the fraternity. It is only by a study of these details that you come to appreciate the deeper nature of the fraternity and are brought to realize the oneness of the various chapters as a whole. That man has yet to be met who comprehends in his conception of the fraternity nothing beyond the horizon of his own chapter, who was any thing but a depressing burden, a fraternity misfit. Unless you can even now feel that general interest in the fraternity as an organization you have been either improperly initiated or instructed. Only knowledge produces sound enthusiasm, and the more complete your education into the purposes and history of the fraternity just to that degree will be the benefits derived and reflected.

. . . . .



In the first place every initiate feels some doubt as to his proper attitude to other fraternity men ; likewise concerning what matters it is lawful to discuss with outsiders. Every new man must understand that his fraternity connection should put no wall of constraint between congenial spirits of other fraternity connections or of none at all. Relations of friendship should be cultivated with all desirable acquaintances, but necessarily not of as confidential a nature as with those of his own chapter. The more the good will of men in general is obtained to that extent do our possibilities for influence increase. Representative chapters of Kappa Alpha stand very closely together, but are generous enough to acknowledge worth wherever it is found. Clannishness must be shunned and the public discussion of fraternity matters should always be carefully avoided. There is no secrecy, however, in connection with the price of jewelry and the JOURNAL is entirely open. The grip is not for general use and should never be extended in any public place. Any tendency among prepish members to pry into the secret affairs of older fraternities should be summarily squelched by older members. There are many other incidental points that all initiates should be taught by the older members and in case of perplexities arising that haven't been explained there should be no hesitancy in consulting those in a position to satisfy the doubt. As for pins, only the smaller sizes are in good taste and chapter pins are no longer being worn.

The day when chapter secretaries shall be perfect and chapter letters be beyond correction is still far distant, we fear. Secretaries who doubt their ability to write good and readable letters may find helpful hints in the following clipping from *The Kappa Alpha Journal* :

There are two things above all others that must be avoided, namely, boastful or gushing statements and the ventilation of chapter troubles and cases of petty friction with rivals. Chapter worries should be referred to the K. C. and trivial indignities should not be dignified with notice nor are they of interest to other chapters. It is very bad taste for correspondents to lavish compliments upon individual members of their chapter or upon the chapter itself. To mention figures and state facts is well, but don't trespass on the domain of the slushy poet or the professional florist. Every chapter secretary should look out for some subject of more than mere lo-

cal interest—some general topic to discuss—in every letter that he writes. The mere chronicling a list of “our share of honors” makes by itself dry reading and there should always be something that will give an idea of the real progress being made by the chapter, what is being accomplished locally by other fraternities, etc. We hope by the next issue to witness improvement in the lines pointed out and that every chapter secretary will take pains and try to give his chapter the most creditable representation possible. Hereafter chapter letter writers without pretense to life or enthusiasm will, in a kindly spirit, be corresponded with personally and any chronic display of indifference will be brought to the notice of their chapters. A chapter is in the eyes of the fraternity at large just what its chapter secretary makes it, and it is unjust to permit a good chapter's reputation to be destroyed by a single inefficient member.